

# NAS VPN Service

## Category: Network

A virtual private network (VPN) service is available to local NAS staff to provide limited access to some local systems while on travel or at home. Use of the NAS VPN requires a Lou account and active SecurID fob.

**WARNING:** All system traffic is routed through NAS while you are connected via VPN. This system is intended for government use and users are required to follow the appropriate use policy. All traffic is monitored. While connected, *all* your traffic will be routed through NAS, as if you were physically connected to NASLAN. When you are finished with your session, please remember to log out.

Users are subject to the NAS VPN Security Policy.

## When and Why to use VPN

The VPN service will make your system appear to be logically within the NAS external network, with some access to internal resources. Connection to the VPN server and installation of the VPN software are handled through Javascript and users do not have to pre-install prior to connection. VPN makes use of your standard web browser for encryption.

Through VPN, users can make use of any of the following services:

- Apple file sharing (AFP remote mount)
- Access to the NAS license server
- Access to the internal NAS webserver
- Access to some ARC websites not accessible from the outside
- SSH and SCP directly into NASLAN systems (NOT to Enclave systems)

## How to Login to NAS VPN

The login site is at: <https://nas-vpn.nas.nasa.gov>

Enter your login credentials (remember, it is your Lou account information and SecurID fob).

Click "Sign In", and you will be taken to the default VPN page upon successful authentication.

If it is the first time connecting from a new system, you will be prompted to install some software. Depending on your browser's security level, you may get a banner on top of the page warning you that the site is trying to install an ActiveX control. Click on that banner to install it.

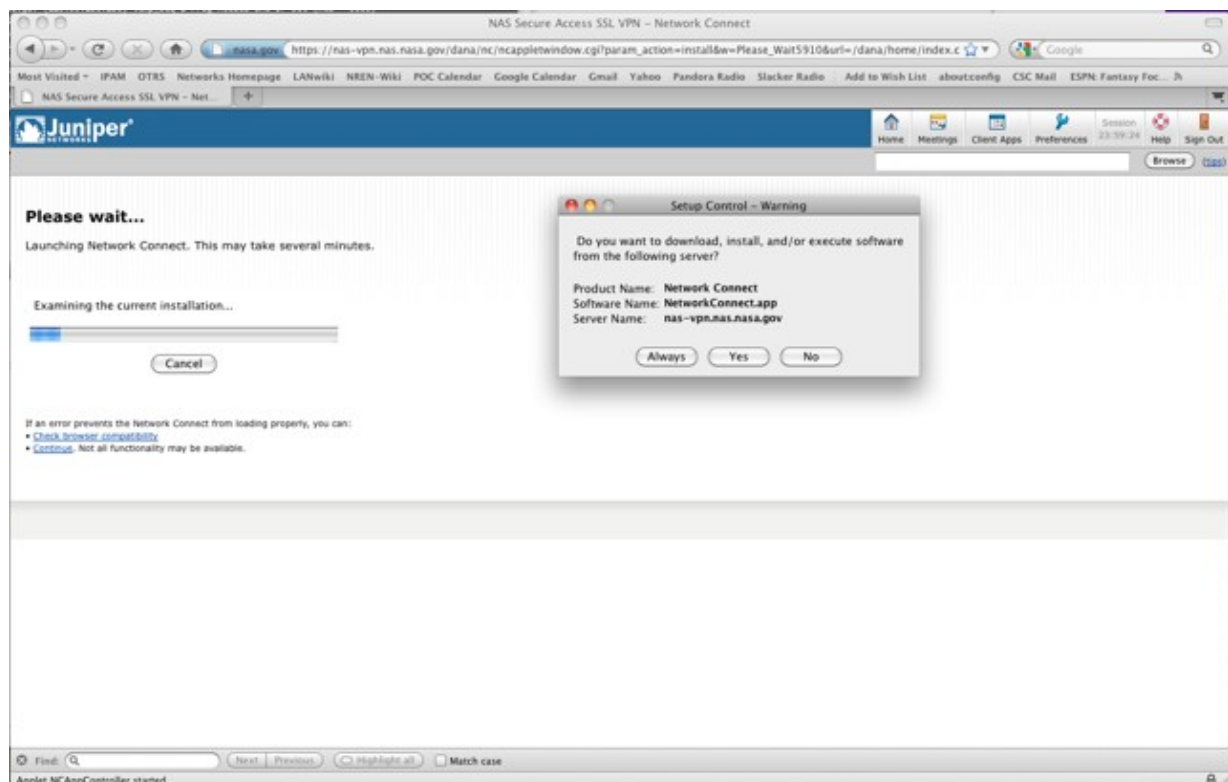
A pop-up window will show that the connection is negotiating. If it does not automatically start, click on "Start" under the Client Application Session for Network Connect. This may take up to a minute. Once done, the window will close and you will have been assigned a new IP address inside the VPN environment. A little icon will be placed in your desktop tray which you can use to get session information and disconnect.

You can verify that the VPN is working by connecting to:

<http://myipaddress.com>

Your address should be on the 198.9.30.x network.

NAS Supported systems already have the VPN Client installed on them. Just double click the "Network Connect" icon and enter your authentication credentials.



Alternatively, if you cannot connect through the above methods, you can manually download the VPN client software here:

- [Download VPN client for Mac](#)
- [Download VPN client for Linux](#)

- Download the tar file which contains the VPN client for Windows
- Download the tar file which contains the VPN client for Windows 64 bit systems

## **VPN FAQ's**

### **Do I Need to Keep My Web Browser Open to Keep the VPN Up?**

No, you do not need to keep your web browser open once you start up the Network Connect client.

### **How do I disconnect from the VPN?**

You can either go back to <http://nas-vpn.nas.nasa.gov> and click the "Sign Out" button on the top right corner, or right-click on the icon in your system tray and select "Sign Out".

### **Is There an Auto-Logout?**

Yes. You will be logged out after 30 minutes of inactivity. The max session length is 12 hrs before you need to re-authenticate and you will be given a reminder before being disconnected. This is so that people don't stay "camped" on the VPN network.

### **What Traffic is Sent Over the VPN?**

All traffic you send will be sent over the VPN. This includes any websites you visit, any chat programs, or any software that requires a network connection. Because of this, it is important that you disconnect from the VPN while not in use.

### **What Changes are Made to my System?**

Several changes are made to your network including a new IP address, default route, search domain and other minor files which allow you to be "virtually" inside the NASLAN. This means you can refer to hosts just by their hostname and not their fully-qualified name, for example:

```
ssh username@desktop
```

### **What Browsers are Supported?**

As long as you meet the requirements listed above, you should be able to connect on Safari, Internet Explorer, and Firefox. We recommend you update to the latest stable

version. The minimum browser requirements are:

- 168-bit and greater encryption
- SSLv3 and TLSv1
- JRE / Java enabled
- Pop-up Windows

## **How Will Connecting to the VPN Impact My Home Network?**

Some of your home services may stop working while connected to the VPN. This includes services like Internet printing, file sharing, and audio streaming. This is to ensure security of NAS while you are connected to the VPN.

---

Article ID: 268

Last updated: 20 Feb, 2013

Data Storage & Transfer -> Storage Components -> Network -> NAS VPN Service

<http://www.nas.nasa.gov/hecc/support/kb/entry/268/?ajax=1>